



ESTABLISHED 1915

R 2012-8  
MC 2012-14

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2012 MAY 25 P 4:38

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Ruth Goldway  
Chairman Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-001

Received

MAY 24 2012

Dear Chm. Goldway:

Office of PAGR

We note with dismay the USPS extending of a special relationship with one company, Valassis, to offer this one company rates that are anti-competitive and pose jeopardy itself to the functioning of a healthy marketplace and a free and independent press.

The Valassis arrangement under consideration as a Negotiated Service Agreement by USPS proposes to offer deep discounts - 20-32% - to increase its new marriage mail packages in existing markets in the coming year. This is not only anti-competitive, it is a shot at the heart of the thousands of community newspapers that have been part of the mail delivery since the beginning of the Republic.

We urge the USPS, which holds the monopoly on mail delivery not to use that power in a way that favors a single special customer, acting essentially as a special interest that because of its favored position is acting as a destructive force, both in the marketplace, and in the ability of newspapers to pursue their own business, and inform an interested public. This is something that Valassis never has done, and never will do.

We urge you to reject such a Negotiated Service Agreement.

Yours Very Truly,

William C. Markham  
President and Publisher  
Antelope Valley Newspapers Inc.